GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1628
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2003
IMPORT OF EDIBLE OIL
PRAKASH V. PATIL

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the action on the report of the `Technology Mission` for oilseeds of 1986 had recorded a spectacular increase in production and the countgry became edible oil exporter instead of importer as at present;

(b) whether World Bank dictates regarding liberalisations is responsible to policy shift; and

(c) the steps are underway to control the damage done due to policy shift?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI S.B. MOOKHERJEE)

(a): After the introduction of Oilseeds Production Programme(OPP) by the Technology Mission on Oilseeds set up during the year 1986, the production of oilseeds has increased from 10.83 million tonnes in 1985-86 to the level of 24.75 million tonnes in 1998-99.

As per the first advance estimate, the oilseeds production in Kharif 2003-04 has been estimated to be 150.8 lakh MT as compared to the production of 92.2 lakh MT during 2002-03. The oilseed production prospects for Rabi 2003-04 are also much better. The increase in oilseeds production will result in an increase in the vegetable oil production leading to a likely reduction in the edible oil imports during the current year. However, India will continue to be a net importer of edible oil.

(b): No.Sir.

(c): Does not arise.